

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. **(currently amended)** An article turning ~~turning round~~ apparatus, comprising:
~~provided with~~

first and second stations at which a plurality of ~~disposable wearing~~ articles are to be each
~~having, in addition to front and rear waist regions opposed to each other, a waist surrounding upper~~
~~end zone and a crotch bottom zone,~~ are successively loaded and unloaded, respectively; ~~[[,]] and~~
~~adapted to successively turn round said articles moving from said first station to said second station,~~
~~said article turning round apparatus being characterized by that: said turning round apparatus~~
~~further comprises~~

a rotary base rotatable about a stationary ~~adapted to be rotated by means of a first shaft, and~~
~~provided along a peripheral zone thereof with~~ said first and second stations being positioned in a
peripheral zone of said rotary base; and

a plurality of load-carrying tables arranged at regular intervals along said peripheral zone,
said load-carrying tables being adapted to carry thereon said articles ~~of which said front or rear~~
~~waist regions are held in contact with said load-carrying tables; said load-carrying tables comprise~~
and including first and second load-carrying tables rotatably mounted on said rotary base ~~by means~~
~~of second shafts extending in an axial direction of said first shaft so as to be rotated around their~~
~~own axes while moving in said peripheral zone of said rotary base and to be simultaneously moved~~
along with said peripheral zone ~~of said rotary base~~ as said rotary base rotates; ~~and second load-~~
~~carrying tables rotatably mounted on said rotary base by means of third shafts extending in the axial~~
~~direction of said first shaft so as to be rotated around their own axes in said peripheral zone of said~~

~~rotary base and to be simultaneously moved along said peripheral zone of said rotary base as said rotary base rotates~~

~~wherein~~

said first and second load-carrying tables are alternatingly ~~alternately~~ arranged on said rotary base so that each of said second load-carrying tables ~~[[be]]~~ is interposed between ~~[[each]]~~ one pair of said first load-carrying tables; ~~and said first and second load-carrying tables are successively loaded with said articles having respective waist surrounding upper end zones lined up in a predetermined direction as soon as said first and second load-carrying tables alternately reach said first station as said rotary base rotates wherein~~

said first and second load-carrying tables are rotated around their own axes in opposite directions while being moved by said peripheral zone of said rotary base and thereby turned round ~~approximately by an angle of 90° clockwise or counterclockwise while said first load-carrying tables move from said first station to said second station and said second load-carrying tables are rotated around their own axes in said peripheral zone of said rotary base and thereby turned round approximately by an angle of 90° in the direction opposite to that of said first load-carrying tables while said second load-carrying tables move from said first station to said second station as said rotary base rotates; and~~

said apparatus further comprises a belt trained around a portion of said stationary shaft and a portion of at least one of said first and second load-carrying tables, wherein a rotational movement of said rotary base about the portion of said stationary shaft causes said belt to travel about said stationary shaft which belt, in turn, will cause said at least one of said first and second load-carrying tables to rotate about its own axis.

2. **(currently amended)** The ~~article turning round~~ apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said first and second load-carrying tables include a first suction mechanism functioning to hold said articles on said first and second load-carrying tables under a suction effect when ~~so that~~ said first and second load-carrying tables move ~~along said peripheral zone of said rotary base from~~

said first station to said second station ~~together with said articles held thereon under the suction effect and simultaneously rotate around their own axes in said peripheral zone of said rotary base.~~

3. **(currently amended)** The ~~article turning round~~ apparatus according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 2, further comprising a first conveyor ~~belt assembly~~ adapted to convey said articles at regular intervals to said first station ~~of said rotary base so that each pair of adjacent said articles may have respective waist surrounding upper end zones lined up with each other~~ and a second conveyor ~~belt assembly~~ adapted to convey said articles away from said second station ~~of said rotary base at regular intervals so that each pair of adjacent said articles may have respective waist surrounding upper end zones opposed to each other.~~

4. **(canceled)**

5. **(currently amended)** The ~~article turning round~~ apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said first conveyor ~~belt assembly~~ includes a second suction mechanism adapted to hold said articles on said first conveyor ~~[[belt]]~~ under a suction effect and, when said first and second load-carrying tables come face to face with said first conveyor ~~belt assembly~~, said first suction mechanism effectively functions against the suction effect of said second suction mechanism to transfer said articles from said first conveyor ~~belt assembly~~ onto said first and second load-carrying tables.

6. **(currently amended)** The ~~article turning round~~ apparatus according to claim ~~[[3]]~~ 5, wherein said second conveyor ~~belt assembly~~ includes a third suction mechanism adapted to hold said articles on said second conveyor ~~[[belt]]~~ under a suction effect and, when said first and second load-carrying tables come face to face with said second conveyor ~~belt assembly~~, said third suction mechanism effectively functions against the suction effect of said first suction mechanism to transfer said articles from said first and second load-carrying tables onto said second conveyor ~~belt~~

assembly.

7. (canceled)

8. (new) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein each of said first and second load-carrying tables, while traveling with the rotary base from the first station to the second station, rotates about 90° around its own axis.

9. (new) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said belt, which is a first belt, is trained around the respective portions of all said first load-carrying tables and said stationary shaft;
said apparatus further comprising a second belt which is trained around the respective portions of all said second load-carrying tables and said stationary shaft.

10. (new) The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein each of said first and second load-carrying tables has a shaft attached thereto, said shaft being rotatably supported by said rotary base and having thereon a pulley around which the respective belt is trained.

11. (new) The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said first and second belts are trained around the respective pulleys in such a manner that said first and second load-carrying tables always rotate about their own axes in opposite directions.

12. (new) The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein radius ratios between said portion of the stationary shaft around which said belts are trained and the pulleys disposed on the shafts attached to of said first and second load-carrying tables are chosen so that an angular velocity with which the first load-carrying tables rotate about their own axes is different than that of the second load-carrying tables.

13. **(new)** The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a suction box common to all said load-carrying tables;

each of said load-carrying tables comprising a plurality of through holes which are in fluid communication with said suction box only when said load-carrying table travels from said first station toward said second station.

14. **(new)** The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said suction box includes an elongated opening extending along a path on which said load-carrying tables travel from said first station to said second station.

15. **(new)** The apparatus according to claim 14, further comprising, for each of said load-carrying tables, a hollow shaft which is attached to said load-carrying table, is rotatably supported by said rotary base and has opposite upper and lower open ends, wherein said load-carrying table has a plurality of through holes in fluid communication with the upper open end of said hollow shaft, the lower open end of said hollow shaft being in fluid communication with said elongated opening of said suction box only when said load-carrying table is on said path.

16. **(new)** The apparatus according to claim 15, further comprising
on each of the hollow shafts of said first load-carrying tables, a pulley around which said belt is trained;

on each of the hollow shafts of said second load-carrying tables, a pulley around which another belt is trained, said another belt is also trained around said portion of the stationary shaft.

17. **(new)** The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said elongated opening has a first and second ends located at first and second stations, respectively, an inner cross section of said elongated opening at said first end is larger than at said second end, thereby inducing different suction forces at said first and second ends and facilitating transfer of said articles at said first and

second stations.

18. (new) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the through holes of a maximum of two said load-carrying tables are in fluid communication with said suction box at a time.

19. (new) The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein each of said conveyors includes upper and lower endless belts disposed side by side for holding the articles therebetween, the lower endless belt stops short of the respective station, the upper endless belt has an infeed or outfeed that extends into said respective station and has a suction box for holding the articles at a lower run of said upper endless belt.

20. (new) An article turning apparatus, comprising:

first and second stations at which a plurality of articles are to be successively loaded and unloaded, respectively;

a rotary base rotatable about a stationary shaft, said first and second stations being positioned in a peripheral zone of said rotary base; and

a plurality of load-carrying tables arranged at regular intervals along said peripheral zone, said load-carrying tables being adapted to carry thereon said articles and including first and second load-carrying tables mounted on said rotary base so as to be rotatable around their own axes while moving along with said peripheral zone as said rotary base rotates;

wherein

said first and second load-carrying tables are alternatingly arranged on said rotary base so that each of said second load-carrying tables is interposed between one pair of said first load-carrying tables;

said first and second load-carrying tables are rotated around their own axes in opposite directions while being moved by said rotary base from said first station to said second station as

said rotary base rotates;

said apparatus further comprises a suction box common to all said load-carrying tables; and each of said load-carrying tables comprises a plurality of through holes which are in fluid communication with said suction box only when said load-carrying table travels from said first station toward said second station.

21. **(new)** The apparatus according to claim 20, wherein said suction box includes an elongated opening extending along a path on which said load-carrying tables travel from said first station to said second station.

22. **(new)** The apparatus according to claim 21, further comprising, for each of said load-carrying tables, a hollow shaft which is attached to said load-carrying table, is rotatably supported by said rotary base and has opposite upper and lower open ends, wherein said load-carrying table has a plurality of through holes in fluid communication with the upper open end of said hollow shaft, the lower open end of said hollow shaft being in fluid communication with said elongated opening of said suction box only when said load-carrying table is on said path.